

**CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Monday, March 2, 2009**  
**The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room A**

**The following members were present:**

Alex Berger	Jessie Hoagland
Ira Berkowitz	Dick Hyde
Mimi Deem	Robert Kerr
Judy Goodman	Eric Schneider
Rosemary Hardy	Mark Winings

**Excused/Absent**

Omri Praiss

*Also present:*

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Eric Gruenenfelder, Superintendant of Recreation

**Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Schneider moved to adopt the minutes with corrections. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. The corrected minutes were distributed via email on Tuesday, March 3.

**Director's Report**

Ms. DeForrest stated that the budget process has begun and she they will begin discussing fees and charges at the April meeting. She will also discuss capital projects at this meeting.

The ice rink report will be presented next month. The ice rink did stay open during the warmer weather; however a portion of the rink did have to be blocked off with cones. While this was taking place one of the ice rink compressors was able to be re-built and now the ice rink is operating on 3 compressors instead of two, which has improved operations. Mr. Berkowitz asked Ms. DeForrest if they had looked into getting materials to put on the boards and glass at the ice rink to prevent glaring. He suggested adjusting those areas to black instead of keeping them white to keep the sun from melting one side of the rink. Ms. DeForrest said they will consider looking into this for next year's season.

The ice rink revenue exceeded budget projections. Staff did an excellent job this year. The ice rink was used more for public skating this year and it was a good benefit. More birthday parties were held there this year as well. Mr. Noelken and Mr. Gruenenfelder will be at the April meeting to answer additional ice rink questions.

Concession operations changes were discussed at the February meeting and will be looked at in greater detail at the April meeting.

The City of Clayton is hosting their annual Electronic Recycling event on March 20 and March 21. The second year of the event we doubled what was recycled and then last year the amount tripled. The event takes place on the south end of Shaw Park near 170 and Brentwood. This is a great drop off location for the event because those who are recycling can drop off their electronics, turn around in the circle and they easily leave the park. The sports teams began practicing outdoors. Youth and adult leagues begin in two weeks.

The Field Technician position has been filled by a gentleman from Texas. He has excellent experience including doing field work for the Houston Texans. The 2 Aquatic positions have been posted. We hope to have the positions filled within a month.

Five Parks and Recreation staff members will be attending the MRPA conference in Kansas City the week of March 9. Ms. DeForrest pointed out that the MRPA magazine that everyone received at the meeting had an article in it about the Aquatic award we received and we hope to have information in the next edition about the hockey tournament we hosted in May.

Ms. DeForrest and Ms. Renard will begin conducting park inspections by the end of next month. These types of inspections have not been done in the past. The goal is to see what needs to be fixed in the parks

and it is a systematic way to evaluate them. Each park will be scored on a 100 point scale. The other goal is to make sure the parks all get to the 85-90 percent range after repairs and updates have been made.

We did not receive the two stimulus grants we applied for because the decision was made to fund only large street projects. Three or four expansion projects on major roads will take place as long as they can start the project within 75 days. Ms. DeForrest noted that the department looks at grant opportunities on an on-going basis. The Commission will have to look at the upcoming Municipal Park Grant because they usually give out \$300,000-\$400,000 at a time.

Five requests for qualifications have been received for the Center of Clayton's marketing plan. This plan will include a programming component.

Pool drain cover update - Ms. DeForrest stated that our consultants are doing a great job assisting us with these updates. We have relatively new pools so replacing the drain covers is not as difficult for us as it is for places with older pools. We addressed the hot tub issue and have already installed an automatic valve. The replacement of the drains in the Competition pool will take place while we are closed for annual cleaning. New drains at the outdoor pool will not take place prior to summer of 2010. Our insurance company is fine with this process. The drains at the outdoor pool do not operate on any type of suction filtration system. St. Louis County has extended the drain installation date to the end of 2009 because the drains are not yet available to the public.

#### **Master Plan Project Evaluation**

The changes discussed at the February meeting have been incorporated into the document. We will use the matrix as we review projects.

#### **Old Business / New Business**

Ms. DeForrest encouraged the Commission members to contact their alderman if they are interested in the Chairman position.

Mr. Schneider asked Ms. DeForrest if the Commission has ever discussed smoking policies related directly to smoking in City of Clayton parks. He suggested talking about the topic because the BOA is involved in researching the idea of making the City of Clayton a smoke-free city. Alderman Goodman noted that the BOA is going to begin surveying citizens and restaurant owners, and at the BOA meeting exploring the issue was supported unanimously. Ms. DeForrest stated that 2 years ago the outdoor pool became smoke free, smoking is not permitted on any of our campuses, and there have been requests made to make our parks non-smoking. Further, Ms. Ucinski will do some research to see what types of policies other Parks and Recreation departments have in place at their parks. This topic will be on the agenda for the May meeting and will be discussed at greater length at that time.

Ms. Hoagland spoke briefly about the Green program she has developed at the Clayton Child Center. Also, she explained how she is pursuing Clayton elementary schools to get them on board with Green programs. Essentially green team leasers are educators for local communities and they care for play areas which includes caring for the outdoors. Gardens are a part of this program. Ms. DeForrest and Ms. Hoagland will keep the Commission informed about the progress of Green school projects in Clayton.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Denise Ucinski